DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY RICS DATE 10/25/92
RDS☐or XD:☐EXT. DATE
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EXEMPTIONS (b)
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Department of State
TELEGRAM

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ORIGIN L-03

INFO OCT-00 AF-10 ADS-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-06 H-01 INR-10
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /049 R

DRAFTED BY L/AF:NWELV:EW
APPROVED BY AF:LWALKER
AF/C:ARENDER
----------058052 2203192 /75
O 2800Z SEP 79
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BANGUI IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 12065 N/A

TAGS: PGOV, CT

SUBJECT: CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE

1. THE FOLLOWING IS THE DEPARTMENT'S CUSTOMARY GUIDANCE TO EMBASSIES FOR HANDLING RECOGNITION ISSUES AFTER AN ABRUPT GOVERNMENTAL CHANGE: (A) MAINTAIN NORMAL CONTACTS; (B) DOWNPLAY ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING US RECOGNITION OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT; (C) AVOID SIGNIFICANT NEW BILATERAL ACTIONS WHICH WOULD IMPLY APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT, I.E., NO FORMAL CONGRATULATORY OR CRITICAL STATEMENTS, HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATIONS, ANNOUNCEMENT OR CONCLUSION OF NEW AGREEMENTS; (D) AVOID STATEMENTS OR ACTS THAT SUGGEST RECOGNITION IS A QUESTION TO BE FORMALLY OR DRAMATICALLY DECIDED.

2. AS IS OBVIOUS, THIS POLICY IS DESIGNED TO PERMIT CONTINUING THE PURSUIT OF US INTERESTS THROUGH NORMAL CONTACTS WHILE PROVIDING A PERIOD FOR USG APPRAISAL OF THE SITUATION.
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THOUGH RECOGNITION REMAINS A RELEVANT ISSUE, WE HAVE SOUGHT

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TO AVOID UNDUE EMPHASIS UPON IT BE STRESSING INSTEAD THE FULL RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS AFTER A BRIEF ASSESSMENT PERIOD. WHEN PRESSED WE HAVE STATED THAT FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS IMPLIES US RECOGNITION OF A NEW GOVERNMENT WITHOUT IDENTIFYING ANY SPECIFIC EVENT WHICH CONSTITUTES RECOGNITION.

3. DEPARTMENT WILL ISSUE FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCESEPT. 22 OR SEPT. 24.
Q. DOES THE US RECOGNIZE THE NEW CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE REGIME?

A. OUR RESPONSE TO THE EVENTS IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE IS SIMILAR TO OUR REACTION TO OTHER RECENT GOVERNMENTAL CHANGES IN RECENT YEARS. THE ISSUE OF RECOGNITION IS DE-EMPHASIZED. RATHER THE EMBASSY IS INSTRUCTED TO CONTINUE NORMAL CONTACTS AND MONITOR THE SITUATION CLOSELY TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE NEW REGIME HAS EFFECTIVE CONTROL OVER THE COUNTRY. THE SIGNING OF NEW AGREEMENTS AND OTHER SIGNIFICANT BILATERAL ACTIONS ARE NORMALLY AVOIDED DURING THIS PERIOD. ULTIMATELY, AFTER EVALUATION DEVOID OF THE SITUATION, FULL SCALE DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS AND RELATIONS ARE RESUMED WITHOUT ANY SPECIFIC EVENT CONSTITUTING THE ACT OF RECOGNITION. VANCE

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